

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

The specification has been amended to include a new Abstract and Sequence Listing. References to the sequences have been revised to be consistent with the new Sequence Listing. The DNA sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 is the full length sequence of the DNA sequence of Figure 1 while the DNA sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 is the portion of the DNA sequence of Figure 1 encoding the amino acid sequence of Figure 1. Similarly, the DNA sequence of SEQ ID NO:5 is the full length sequence of the DNA sequence of Figure 3 while the DNA sequence of SEQ ID NO:7 is the portion of the DNA sequence of Figure 3 encoding the amino acid sequence of Figure 3.

The Figures have been revised as shown in the attached Annotated sheets. No new matter has been added. Acceptance of the Replacement Sheets of the drawings is requested.

The attached paper and computer readable copies of the Sequence Listing are the same. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-11 have been canceled, without prejudice.

Claims 12-39 have been added and are pending. Support for the claims may be found throughout the specification as originally-filed. No new matter has been added.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement are requested, along with examination of all of the pending claims, as the pending claims are submitted to define a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. That is, the applicants submit that the claimed invention include the same or corresponding special technical feature. All of the claims are submitted to define over the art previously cited

by the Examiner in support of the lack of unity rejection. Examination and allowance of all of the claims are requested.

The applicants note in this regard that the Examiner has acknowledged that patentability of SEQ ID NO:1 of the prior Sequence Listing (i.e., SEQ ID NO:3 of the attached Sequence Listing) over the cited art. The Examiner broadened the search to include the general concept of now-canceled claim 4. The applicants submit that the pending claims reading on nucleotide sequences and proteins encoded by the same, and complexes containing the proteins, are also not found in the art and examination of the pending claims is requested.

The specification has been corrected in response to the Examiner's comments in §2 on page 2 of the Office Action dated June 29, 2005. the Examiner is requested to advise the undersigned in the event anything further is required in this regard.

The Abstract has been revised, as required by the Examiner.

The specification has been amended to include a section heading "Brief Description of the Drawings".

The specification has been revised to include sequence identifiers for sequences of the Figures, as required by the Examiner.

The Section 112, second paragraph, rejection of claims 4-6 is moot in view of the above. The claims are submitted to be definite.

The Section 102 rejections of claims 4-6 over each of WO 99/09064, WO 98/03552, WO 93/10220, WO 98/06749, WO 97/28191 and Cullen (Cell. Immunology 192:54-62, 1999) are moot in view of the above. The claims are submitted to be

patentable over the art as note of the art of record teach, individually or in combination, the presently claimed invention.

The claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is requested. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned in the event anything further is required.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 

B. J. Sadoff
Reg. No. 36,663

BJS:
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Insert the attached 9 Replacement sheets of drawings in place of the originally-filed 9 Annotated sheets of drawings. The Annotated sheets of drawings include an indication of the changes made in hand-written text.